Safety at the Edge

5th Armored Brigade Live Fire Accident

Dagger Safety Gram

A mobilized Army Reserve Soldier, deployed to the Ft. Bliss Mission Training Center was involved in a potentially fatal near miss live-fire accident at approximately 1909, on 26 March 2013. The Soldier was conducting training on Range 6 at McGregor Range when a weapons malfunction caused the Soldiers M4 personal weapon to explode.

The weapon was destroyed, when pressure inside of the breach caused the upper receiver to disintegrate. As per the weapon's design, the upper receiver broke apart and no significant injury was received by the Soldier. The Soldier was wearing all of the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment which included: Helmet, Body Armor (to include DAPS protective shoulder attachments), Eye protection, gloves, and Hearing protection. The Soldier was treated and released suffering only minor scratches.

This accident highlights the value of wearing appropriate protective equipment when conducting live-fire operations. Firearms malfunctions often result in serious injury and sometimes death. PPE works, and in this incident, may have prevented serious harm to a member of our Fighting Team. This accident is still under investigation.

Safety is always first it is not a choice!!

COMMAND ATTENTION REQUIRED

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